

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
May 6, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lance Harris, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Lance Harris, chairman
Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV, vice chairman
Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson
Representative Richard James Nelson
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Paul Hollis
Representative John R. Illg, Jr.
Representative Barry Ivey

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joey David, legislative analyst
Bryan D. Vincent, director
Jennifer Watson, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms
John Harrington, committee clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 21 by Senator Robert Mills

Senator Robert Mills presented Senate Bill No. 21, which provides for the purchase of service and salary credit for members furloughed due to COVID-19.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 21 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 21 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Beaulieu, Firment, Jefferson, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 13 by Senator Price

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 13, which allows upgrade of the accrual rate applicable to transferred service credit.

Kevin Reed, director, Louisiana State Police Retirement System, 9224 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 295-8400, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 13.

Representative Adams offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 13 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 13 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Beaulieu, Firment, Jefferson, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 24 by Senator Price

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 24, which provides a minimum benefit increase for certain retirees, beneficiaries, and survivors of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, and State Police Retirement System.

Cindy Rougeou, executive director, LASERS, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-0604, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 24.

Douglas Swenson, Teacher's Retirement System of Louisiana, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 24.

Kevin Reed, director, Louisiana State Police Retirement System, 9224 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 295-8400, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 24.

Charles Bujol, executive director, Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, 8660 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-6486, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 24.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 24 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 24 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Firment, Jefferson, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 24 by Representative Adams

Representative Adams presented House Bill No. 24, which authorizes members of the Louisiana State Police Retirement System to purchase additional service credits at the time of retirement.

Kevin Reed, director, Louisiana State Police Retirement System, 9224 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 295-8400, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 24.

Representative Adams offered a motion to report House Bill No. 24 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 24 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Beaulieu, Firment, Jefferson, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 28 by Representative Adams

Representative Adams presented House Bill No. 28, which provides relative to beneficiaries within the Firefighters' Retirement System.

Representative Harris offered technical amendments. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Beaulieu, Firment, Jefferson, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Harris offered amendments to remove provisions pertaining to the removal of a former spouse as a beneficiary. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed

amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Beaulieu, Firment, Jefferson, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Harris offered amendments to add provisions making a disability determination for retirement purposes sufficient for survivor purposes. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Beaulieu, Firment, Jefferson, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson, Baton Rouge, LA 70812, (225) 324-8085, spoke in support of House Bill No. 28.

Steven Stockstill, Firefighters' Retirement System, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 28.

Representative Adams offered a motion to report House Bill No. 28 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 28 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Beaulieu, Firment, Jefferson, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 29 by Representative Jefferson

Representative Jefferson presented House Bill No. 29, which provides relative to the Firefighters' Retirement System's Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) and unfunded accrued liability.

Representative Harris offered technical amendments. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Beaulieu, Firment, Jefferson, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Harris offered amendments that, relative to partial department dissolutions where the number of participating employees is less than 70% of what it was, change the number of employee positions that must be lost from two to three. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Beaulieu, Firment, Jefferson, Nelson, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Harris offered amendments to :

1. Provide that if a member chooses to participate in DROP for more than three years, his benefits are calculated using a five year final average compensation.
2. Provide that the decision of how long a member participates in DROP is irrevocable.
3. Provide for recovery of attorney fees and court costs through a concursus proceeding.

Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Beaulieu, Firment, Jefferson, Nelson, and Tarver voted yeas.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 1338 Highway 67, Slaughter, LA 70777, (225) 572-8483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 29.

Steven Stockstill, Firefighters' Retirement System, 3100 Brentwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4060, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 29.

Greg Curran, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 29.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 29 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 29 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Firment, Jefferson, Nelson, and Tarver voted yeas.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Bacala offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Adams, Bacala, Firment, Jefferson, Nelson, and Tarver voted yeas.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: